



Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

Music in the Key of A²

November 30, 2015

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Mary Steffek Blaske

The Honorable Erika Geiss
State Representative, 12th District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Geiss:

On behalf of the Board, Musicians, Staff and Audience of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, thank you for recognizing the importance of the arts and culture in Michigan. We applaud you initiating and growing HB 4130 of 2015 which will help support the state-wide programs which improve the lives of Michigan's citizens.

Arts and culture touches the lives of every Michigander. Music education builds lifelong skills in not only music, but in pattern recognition, complex and spatial reasoning, numeracy, and cooperative teamwork. Music therapy reaches into the lives of Alzheimer patients who can again communicate through singing. Music as an industry employs thousands of highly skilled performers who choose to make Michigan their home. Music attracts a lively community who want to reside where there are fun things to do and to hear. Collaterally, it provides the impetus for millions of dollars to be reinvested into each community by everyday people to enjoy a concert,, and cap that experience with going out for a meal or purchasing a book or recording to remember that experience.

We all look forward to the successful passage of HB 4130.

Cordially,

Mary Steffek Blaske
Executive Director